

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/659,254  
Response filed March 17, 2006  
Reply to OA dated December 19, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 and 2 (canceled).

1       Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus for regulating state of charge in a battery  
2       assembly including a plurality of secondary cells as unit cells which are connected in series,  
3       said apparatus comprising;  
4       voltage detecting means for detecting respective voltages across said unit cells, and  
5       equalizing means for equalizing the respective voltages across said unit cells by transferring  
6       electric charge from the largest unit cell having the largest voltage across the cell to a capacitor, and  
7       thereafter, by transferring the electric charge from said capacitor to the smallest unit cell having the  
8       smallest voltage across the cell,  
9       wherein said equalizing means transfers the electric charge from said largest unit cell to said  
10      capacitor so that the voltage of said capacitor may be made higher than the voltage across said largest  
11      unit cell,  
12      wherein said equalizing means connects is a voltage converter of which input is connected

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13      to said largest unit cell and of which output is connected to said capacitor by way of a voltage  
14      converter.

1              Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus for regulating state of charge as claimed in  
2      claim 3, wherein said voltage converter is of a voltage raising type which will raise convert the  
3      voltage across inputted from said largest unit cell up to the largest operational voltage of said unit  
4      cells.

\*       \*       \*       \*